

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	1. Fear of War and Rearmed Germany. 2. Schoolchildren Under Communist Education.	DATE DISTR.	13 July 1955	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Fear of War and of a Rearmed Germany.

In the Czech people's views of the international situation [REDACTED] there are two important factors which characterize the morale of the people: fear of war and fear of the Germans. It is generally believed that, in the event of war, the Western Allies would most probably retreat under the first impact of the Soviet armies and that it would take a long time for the Allies to reverse the tide and press the Russians back. This would mean that the CSR would be swept by war in both directions, and possibly several times. The fear of war is coupled with fear of the Germans which is being skillfully fanned by the Communist propaganda with its exaggerated accounts of the rearmament of Western Germany. Playing on the recent experiences of the Nazi occupation and on the age-long struggle against German pressure, the Communists succeeded to a considerable degree in making the people believe that, in the event of war, the Germans, supported by the Allies, would take ruthless vengeance on the Czechs.

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To counter this wide-spread fear of a rearmed Germany [REDACTED] the West should immediately launch a systematic propaganda offensive repeatedly emphasizing that in the event of war the German army would not be used against the Czechs and Slovakia. [REDACTED] the Czech army would probably fight well against German units, but not against the Western Allies.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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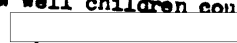


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 the idea of a United States of Europe was very popular with all sections of the population and should be given more emphasis in the propaganda efforts of the West.

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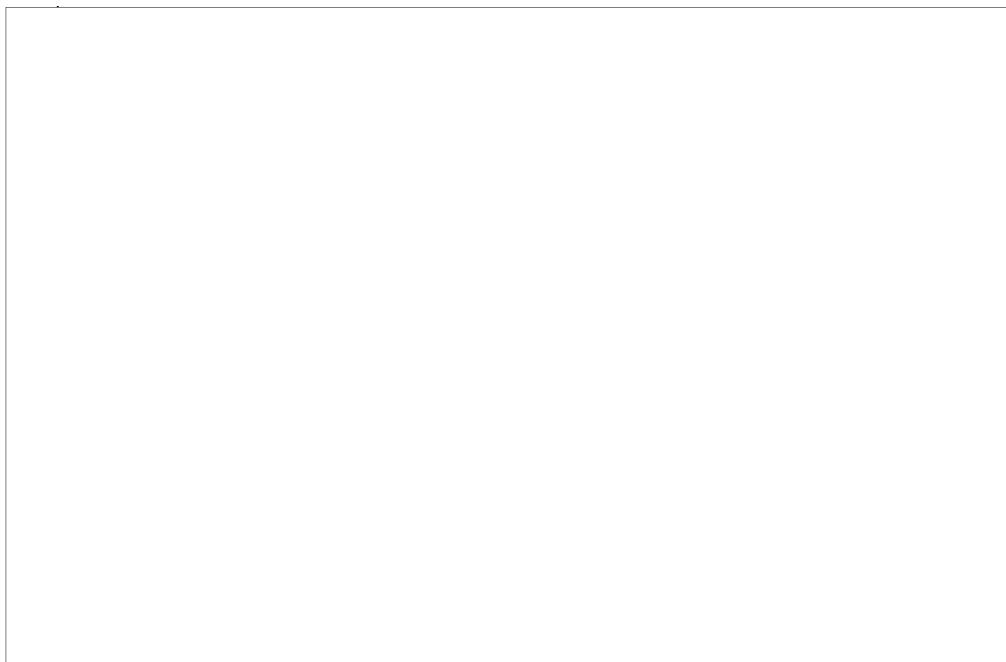
2. Schoolchildren under Communist Education.

 it was surprising how well children could still distinguish between truth and falsehood.  by the fact that a considerable number of schoolteachers were still of the "old school" who, even though the textbooks stated things differently, always found a way of indicating to their pupils what the truth was.

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